

seems to be entirely lost. The heel is very small and narrow, and as it has never come in contact with the ground, the skin is delicate and tender.

*Operation.*—*January 10th, 1835.* Assisted by Dr. Benjamin Robinson of Fayetteville, N. C. I divided the tendo Achillis two and a half inches from its insertion, by passing a sharp-pointed narrow bistoury beneath the tendon, and dividing its fibres from within outwards, merely cutting through the tendon without wounding the skin, except at the point where the bistoury was introduced. As soon as the division was effected, the foot easily came down to near a right angle with the leg. It was soon restored to its original position, a bit of adhesive plaster placed on the small wound made in the skin, a compress placed on each side of the divided tendon, and secured by a roller. A splint was also applied on the front of the leg and foot. There was so little suffering from the operation, that the exhibition of an anodyne was required only once or twice during the treatment.

*January 15th.* Stromeyer's apparatus for the extension of the fibrinous deposit between the cut ends of the tendon was applied. The extension was very cautiously, nay, almost imperceptibly, increased from day to day, until the expiration of the fourth week, when the foot was found to be at a right angle with the leg. The extending apparatus was now taken off during the day, and a laced boot worn, the apparatus being reapplied at night for a week longer. I was induced to apply the apparatus for extension at an earlier period than that originally practised by Stromeyer, from having met with an account in the *Med. Chirurg. Rev.* of a case in which Stromeyer partially failed, as he supposed from his delaying the extension too long.

At the end of the second month my patient could walk with very little limping, the deficiency in the length of the limb being remedied in a good degree by a high-heeled boot. The deformity was entirely removed, and the flexor muscles very soon became obedient to volition. When I last saw him, in May, 1837, he walked with ease, and with a scarcely perceptible limp. The limb had become much more developed, and its muscular power greatly increased.

*New-York, July, 1838.*

ART. XI. *Insanity with complete Taciturnity for nearly three years—Application of Galvanic Plates—Restoration of Speech.* By CHARLES EVANS, M. D., Attending Physician to the Friends' Asylum, near Frankford.

THE following case is worthy of being recorded for its singularity. Whether the sudden restoration to speech was the consequence of, or a coincidence with, the means employed, I leave others to judge.

E. D., the wife of a gentleman of high standing in the state, entered the "Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason," near Frankford, in 1829, and came under my care in 1832. She had then been deranged for thirteen years, and was fifty-four years of age. Size medium, complexion fair, countenance intelligent. General health unimpaired. Head cool, pulse natural, tongue moist and slightly furred; digestion good. From the history given by her friends, it appeared that her original character was shrewd

and sprightly, and had been improved by education. Her disease, which was hereditary, came on gradually: an incapacity or unwillingness to speak had manifested itself a short time previously to her coming under my care, without any discoverable cause. There was no paralysis, and, as far as could be seen, no obstruction to the exercise of the organs of voice, but every means resorted to had failed to produce the enunciation of a word: her hearing was perfect. The expression of her countenance was often anxious and imploring. She usually took her stand in one particular part of the general sitting-room, and, unless when going out to ride or to some other recreation, would remain there most of the day, never voluntarily seating herself. She took no part in any kind of employment, and, though a close observer of what was going on around her, generally appeared occupied with her own thoughts exclusively, disliking, and often resenting, any intrusion. After a careful examination of the symptoms, it was concluded to place her under a course of emetics, which were administered, three times a week, for six weeks, when the stomach becoming disordered they were discontinued. Cups to the head, and the shower-bath were afterwards resorted to, and a stream of cold water repeatedly thrown upon her suddenly and unexpectedly; but nothing improved the manifestations of mind, or called forth an expression. Blisters were applied to the back of her neck, and legs, but without relief, and, after persevering in the use of every means, both medical and moral, which offered a hope of benefit, for several months, she was left without further medical treatment. Her general health continued good. She frequently rode out, and was evidently interested and pleased with her excursions. Occasionally she would listen with attention to the conversation of those about her, and sometimes took part in it by signs, like one who had always been dumb. When asked why she did not speak, she shook her head, and intimated she could not. This state of things continued until the latter part of 1834, when it was concluded to try the effect of galvanic plates upon her. At that time she had not been known to speak for nearly three years. Accordingly, the cuticle having been removed by blisters, plates of the usual size were applied, the silver one on the occiput and the zinc a little below the knee. They were worn in this way for several days without any effect being observed. One morning while the nurse was readjusting the plates, without any particular result being anticipated, she was directed to reverse them, applying the zinc above and the silver below. This being done, no sooner was the connecting wire attached, than the patient cried out, demanding what had been done to her. From that time forward she has evinced no difficulty or disinclination to speak, though but little improvement has taken place in her otherwise. Her loquacity is now irrepressible.

*Philadelphia, 10th Month 1st, 1838.*